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### III. REMARKS

This third preliminary amendment has been made to add new claims. The amendments have been particularly presented to avoid, where applicable, any admission or estoppel, generally, negatively effecting the scope of protection provided by the disclosure and claims of the present application, and particularly to avoid prosecution history estoppel, limitation of the scope of equivalences, or the like. All cancellations of claims are to be done without prejudice and are not to be construed as a waiver of any right to file other applications such as continuations, divisions, continuations-in-part, or similar applications and have the remaining claims examined without any reduction in breadth.

Applicant has added new claims 254-317. The newly added claims have been copied from U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2005/0159982 A1 to Showalter et al., published on July 21, 2005, Application No. 11/032,324 in order to begin the examination analysis. Newly added claim 317 is modeled after copied claim 284 as presented below:

317. (New): A method for automatically scheduling a sample process of a plurality of samples in a laboratory comprising:  
receiving scheduling input information, said scheduling input information including supply information; and  
scheduling a sample process for said plurality of samples in accordance with scheduling input information on at least one laboratory instrument.

It is noted that claim 317 more immediately tracks the language as presented in the specification. The Applicant may submit details relative to suggesting an interference at a later date if or when deemed appropriate. A similar amendment is also submitted in Applicant's case serial number 10/538,745 filed on June 14, 2005.

Dated this 20 day of July, 2006.

Respectfully Submitted,  
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